00201

1955/04/06

[redacted] Draft rep'd to

CIA/Dulles #11

[redacted] SECTS

1.3(a)(4) all deletions

6 April 1955

12 Apr 1

TO: [redacted]

FROM: [redacted]

SAVA File, [redacted]

The following information was received [redacted] for passage to you on a priority basis:

[redacted]

*1. Following for COLLINS from ROBERTSON. [redacted]

*2. Much appreciate your useful reply of 5 April to my message of 1 April. We are now giving it careful study.

*3. This and other information we have received from you [redacted] suggests there are possibilities for isolating Cao Dai, various Hoa Hao chieftains and Binh Xuyen from each other and also within each group. Internal discord within the Binh Xuyen would be particularly useful to promote and develop at this stage. Recent state cables have suggested general principle treating two politico-religious sect-Cao Dai and Hoa Hao- differently on political, civil and military plane than the Binh Xuyen.

*4. In addition to present efforts U.S. missions undertaking to carry out the above, we would like your assessment this approach, brief outline plan of inducements and pressures to divide, isolate and neutralize these organizations and any additional assistance needed from Washington for this purpose. (1)

*5. We wonder if it might be helpful at this stage while we are waiting for French reactions to secretary's policies, if DIEM-U.S. contact should be made with Cao Dai generals to determine to our better satisfaction whether their rally to DIEM is sure or uncertain and whether Cao Dai military units will really remain neutral vis-a-vis Hoa Hao and Binh Xuyen and even support National Army if necessary. If in your judgment this is desirable and practical step and if U.S. contact develops a satisfactorily affirmative response, and you judge it feasible it might be useful for you and ELY or his representative together with DIEM to meet with Cao Dai generals to nail them down to any extent possible. (2)

*6. We fully realize we are far from fast-moving situation and cannot have sources of information available to you. Therefore above are made by way of suggestions.

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Authority NND 809053 with omissions

By NP NLE Date 8-27-87

[redacted]

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[redacted]

Approved for Release

Date JUL 1988